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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose the statement by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, concerning Security Council document S/24711.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement dated 1 November 1992 by the Ministry of Defence of Croatia concerning Security Council document S/24711

The President of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia", Mr. Dobrica Cosic, addressed a letter to the Security Council, in which he repeatedly misrepresented the facts in order to damage the political position of the Republic of Croatia and diminish its reputation in the world community. The letter was circulated as a General Assembly and Security Council document (A/47/577-S/24711), which is in contradiction with Security Council resolution 777 (1992) and General Assembly resolution 47/1, according to which the so-called Yugoslavia is excluded from participation in the work of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. Cosic's letter was written in order to evade any discussion or responsibility for the crimes that have been incessantly committed against the Croatian and Muslim populations in the regions of Bosanska Posavina (Bosanski Brod, Gradacac, Orasje), Jajce, Bihac, Visegrad, Mostar, Maglaj, Zvornik, Travnik and in many other killing fields of innocent civilians throughout the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The only goal of these insinuations is to deceive world public opinion and to gain time for criminal acts that are being committed with undiminished intensity in violation of all declarations and resolutions of international legal institutions.

In connection with the examples mentioned in Mr. Cosic's letter we can reply as follows:

1. The claim that the Croatian army opened fire on eastern Herzegovina (Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina) during the period of 19 and 20 October 1992 is totally unsubstantiated. During that period, the Croatian army responded to the provocations of the Yugoslav army, which had opened an artillery barrage on Cavtat. We informed the authorized representatives of the European Community and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) about this matter.

2. It is claimed that the Croatian army opened an artillery and rocket barrage during the period of 20 to 23 October 1992 from Kupari, Cavtat and Konavle against Trebinje. This is totally unsubstantiated because the kind of weapons which were available in that zone did not have the range to reach Trebinje.

3. On 22 October, a group of four EC monitors was supposedly detained by the Croatian army and supposedly held in a prison for six hours and maltreated. This information is false - a fact that was confirmed in the EC press conference.

4. It is untrue that the civilian authorities of Dubrovnik cut the water supply pipe to Herceg Novi. It is well known that the Yugoslav army blew up the water pipeline to Cavtat, which continues to Herceg Novi. The engineering units of the Croatian army are speedily working on the repairs to the access pipes to the water supply pipeline, which were also blown up and destroyed. As soon as the necessary repairs are completed, the water supply will be resumed to Cavtat and Herceg Novi.

5. On the day of 24 October 1992, the Croatian army did not open an artillery and rocket barrage from Kupari and Cavtat towards Trebinje and did not conduct any kind of infantry attack from these regions. The village of Zvekovica, which was mentioned by Mr. Cosic as being in eastern Herzegovina and which was supposedly attacked by Croatian forces, is actually in the Republic of Croatia. This village was totally destroyed by Yugoslav army units and Chetniks and the above-mentioned claims are without basis. According to the statements of the Croatian command of the Southern front, on the day mentioned, Chetnik units used sniper fire and anti-aircraft guns (against ground targets) in order to provoke the Croatian army and the population of Konavle and during the whole day it was risky to travel along the transportation routes in that region.

In commenting on these excerpts from the letter of the President of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia", we have to express again our condemnation of the distortion of the facts. We would appreciate if all the authorized representatives of UNPROFOR, EC monitors and the legal bodies of the United Nations would continue their noble work and, by submitting prompt and accurate reports, prevent such misinformation. The Republic of Croatia provides daily statements and protests concerning the unprecedented crimes against Croatians and Muslims and the conduct of the Yugoslav army and Chetniks who are carrying out genocide and all kinds of barbaric acts of unrestrained savagery. We would like to see Mr. Cosic's comment on these facts, which have been clearly documented and presented to the Secretary-General by many Member States in accordance with Security Council resolutions 771 and 780 regarding war crimes on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.